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Allen-Scott ReportFulbright's  
Real MissionBy ROBERT S. ALLEN  
AND PAUL SCOTT

Mr. Allen

Senator J. William Fulbright's fact-finding trip to Cyprus is a cleverly devised White House cover for a much more significant presidential mission.

The author of the speech charging "myths and errors" in U.S. foreign policy was commissioned by President Johnson to use his European visit to negotiate a joint trade policy with the British on the Soviet Union and Cuba.

The President gave the "dean" of the congressional Rhodes scholars the task of offering U.S. backing for Britain's plan to increase trade and grant long-term credits to Russia in exchange for support of U.S. policy of economic denial to Cuba.

The trade concessions to the Soviet, which Fulbright discussed in London with Prime Minister Sir Douglas Home, closely match the U.S. proposal made to Premier Khrushchev earlier this month in exchange for Russian concessions on Cuba.

Like Khrushchev, Home welcomed with open arms Johnson's proposal for a relaxation of East-West trade bars, but showed little interest in changing his government's policies toward Cuba.

Because of his own highly publicized disagreement with the administration's Cuban policies, Senator Fulbright reported to the White House he was having trouble convincing Home that Johnson's proposal was being advocated as anything but a domestic political move.

Aides report that Fulbright's message caused the President to call Home and personally assure him he was serious in trying to deny trade to Castro while favoring the exchange of more goods with Khrushchev.

Inside Story

The Fulbright trade mission is designed as a key part of a

visers to tidy up the so-called "Cuban mess."

Deeply concerned over the political problem Cuba will present the President in the coming campaign, these administration policy-makers are trying to create the image of a "Johnson victory" in Cuba without a new war scare.

An agreement with the British to reduce their Cuban exports, and a public indication by Russia that her control over Castro is being loosened, would fit nicely into this rosy picture, since all hard Cuban news is now controlled by Castro or the Johnson administration.

The rest depends on Fulbright chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and his meetings with Home and other NATO leaders. If these talks are successful, Fulbright may contact junketing Khrushchev to tie down the other end of this strange trade deal.

The only threat to this international stage-setting by Johnson and Fulbright is growing new concern among members of the Senate Armed Services Preparedness Subcommittee that U.S. intelligence on Cuba is getting worse rather than improving.

The subcommittee, headed by Senator John Stennis, D-Miss., is planning new hearings because of reports from veteran military intelligence officers that the Central Intelligence Agency is securing less hard information on Cuba than before the October-November 1962 missile crisis. It was during this period before the confrontation that Khrushchev was able to sneak his missiles to the island without detection by the CIA.

Senator Stennis and the other committee members want to know why the super-secret CIA hasn't improved its other information gathering methods on the island and is depending almost entirely on a limited number of U-2 flights for 90 per